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Senate approves ban on pornographic displays

LANSING — Sen. Bill Hardiman, R-Kentwood, announced passage of House Bill 4360, a common-sense, bipartisan effort to ban public displays of pornographic material.

The effort to change the law came about following complaints from parents who had taken their children to places such as gas stations and convenience stores, only to find prominent displays of pornographic magazines and other such material in the business.

Under the bill, which now heads to Gov. Granholm for approval, such material has to be kept from public view either by covering the bottom two-thirds of it or by keeping it in restricted areas that prevents access by minors unaccompanied by guardians.

“I’m glad to see so many senators agree that parents need to be sure that stopping at a gas station won’t mean their children are exposed to pornographic material,” Hardiman said.

The bill also would eliminate language in existing law that deals with Internet pornography. That part of the law was struck down by a federal judge in 1999 and never enforced.

HB 4360 was introduced by Rep. Triette Reeves, D-Detroit.